

MANAGER'S REPORT  
May 15, 2020

Most Recent State Update – The most recent state update for items that affect municipal governments was issued on Wednesday of this week. The update now requires that residents in communities that either offer Rapid Renewal for vehicle registrations or communities that are open in some fashion to perform those duties now have 30 days to register vehicles that expired during the March/April time frame. There is also information that would allow communities to move out the dates when they would normally begin the lien process for unpaid property taxes. Based on an analysis of our current uncollected 19-20 property tax list, we have not seen a significant increase in uncollected taxes, and the majority of those with unpaid taxes as this point in the year are normally unpaid at this time.

Pay It Forward – The Pay It Forward Program sent out the May Business Grants on May 7<sup>th</sup> to 68 businesses. We are up to 72 Food Gift Cards distributed, and there were 140 meal deliveries last Friday.

Bucks Bucks – the Bucks Bucks program being operated by Main Street Bucksport has raised \$12, 340 in donations – which translates into \$24, 680 in impact to the local economy and local businesses. When they started the program – it 'sold out' in 48 hours. As of May 12<sup>th</sup>, 37 people and businesses had donated to the program, including a \$5,000 donation from Trade Winds and a \$1,500 donation from Seaboard Credit Union. 25 local businesses are participating in this program. People interested in Bucks Bucks can do so calling 479-3933. Bucks can be purchased Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and there is a \$50 per family purchase limit per week. The program will continue as long as sufficient donations are received to operate it. 100 percent of donations received are used for Bucks Bucks.

Feed Our Friends – In March, Connor MacLeod started a Go Fund Me page to raise money for people to access for use at local restaurants. These funds are being distributed by Bucksport Community Concerns in conjunction with the local food cupboard work. Thus far, \$3800 has been raised to support this program.

Public Health Nurse Meetings – Thus far, Mary Jane Bush from the Senior Resources Group and I have had two Zoom meetings with Josie Pelletier, the head of Maine Public Health Nurses. The most recent one was on Wednesday. They will be distributing more covid-19 health related information to residents of multi-unit apartment/congregate living areas within the next week and they are beginning planning now for how vaccination sites will be set up – even though that is some time in the future – they want to be ready on day one when an approved one is available. I am also in the process of convening a group of local agencies – a Bucksport Service Area Network - as a means of handling issues arising during this pandemic related to such items as transportation, food security, medical appointments, etc. I am in hopes that this group can meet remotely every couple of weeks to brainstorm solutions to issues as they arise. The suggestion came from the Senior Resource Committee and I think it is a good idea.

Marina – The Marina and Town Dock floats will be put in on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week (18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>). They are going to take up space spread out on the waterfront this weekend in preparation for installation on Tuesday since Monday is supposed to be bad weather. The Marina plans on opening on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Town Office Opening – The Town Office will be opening on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. Three customers at a time will be allowed in the town office main area and others will be asked to respect the social distancing marks that will be outside. In office Assessing, Code Enforcement and Economic Development visits will be made by appointment by calling 469-7368. Signage will be posted on the town office indicating entrance and exit and contact information for Code/Assessing/Economic Development. We ask for your patience. We will still be accepting payments over the phone and via the outside drop box and we encourage people who can to utilize those services as well.

American City & County – I had a conference call with the American City & County organization today about our Pay it Forward program and they asked if I would agree to do a podcast that they can broadcast to their national membership. They also asked if I would be willing to attend their next group meeting to present Bucksport's 'story' so that other communities facing difficulties could understand what has happened here.